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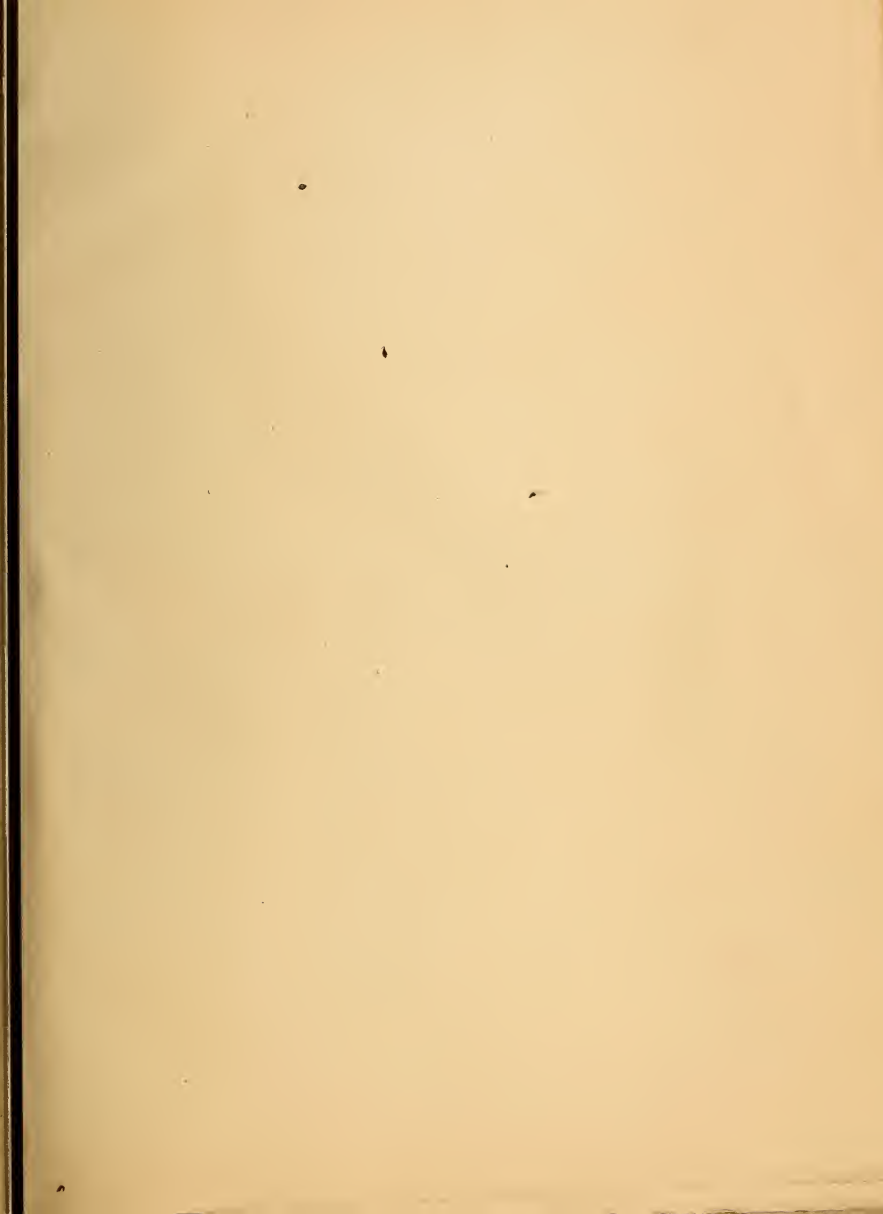
THE GUIDE
FOR
BETTER TIMES.

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THE GUIDE

FOR BETTER TIMES.

NEW YORK, September 12, 1894.

When I, Daniel Brandenburg, came to the city of New York in the year 1867, times were very hard. In the year 1873 there was a great panic; six thousand poor workingmen were standing in the White Garden, between Avenues A and B, New York City, preparatory to marching to the City Hall to ask for bread or work. And when they commenced marching a great many of them were knocked down and beaten by the police with large clubs. At that time I moved to Troy on account of the severe times.

In the year 1876 I became a citizen, and when I took the paper I swore I would fight through land and water. Then I commenced to study how to aid the working-class of people, remembering the old saying "love thy neighbor as thyself." If all my fellow citizens would act upon this rule, it would be of great benefit to the poor people. Then the hard times came in Troy, and I moved to Buffalo, which was in the year 1884, and at that time I went to speak to a great many Democrats, asking those of whom I heard a great many speak, whether we would have better times, if their party or the Republican party should be elected. Then I went to Albany to see his Honor, Grover Cleveland—as long as he was elected he could assist me to make better times—and he told me he

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would see me in Buffalo, so I went to see him in the Genesee House when he came to Buffalo, and asked him if he could get me any assistance to make better times. He directed me to Mr. Scheni, in Buffalo, and I went to him and showed him some writing which I had on a piece of paper, which was that the board of health should see that the houses and stables which are built, should not be built without basements, and should have a connection with the sewer, thus giving employment to the workingmen. At the time of which I am writing they did not have basements to their houses, thereby injuring people's health and causing many to have rheumatism and other kinds of sickness. They should also see that streets, alleys and gutters were always kept clean. When I showed this to Mr. Scheni he did not give me any satisfaction, so I dropped the matter until we should have better times. But four years passed away, and there was no sign of better times. Then I moved from Buffalo to New York, and at that time President Cleveland was nominated for the next term. As I saw the banner was being hung up, the wind blew it down into pieces, and at that time Mr. Bishop came into my store and I told him President Cleveland would not be elected—that was in the year 1888—so I dropped the matter again and waited until 1892, and then Harrison and Cleveland were nominated. I again went to see the banner hung up to see who would be our next President. I noticed in the temple and in the churches that the ministers generally pray for the President or the Emperors. I took this in mind that they generally have their spirits in heaven. So when they hung up Harrison's banner the wind blew it into pieces and Cleveland's banner was up and not a hole in it. So it was the will of God that Mr. Cleveland should be elected President of the United States.

On election day I was in a Tammany Club of Harlem, and the reports came in from all over the country that President Cleveland was elected by a large majority. After a while Mayor Gilroy came into the hall with Lawyer

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 Munzinger. Mayor Gilroy spoke a great deal about the election and thanked the citizens for their kindness in electing him Mayor of the city of New York, and he said he would do all he could to help the citizens, again thanking them for the honor they conferred upon him. After the election I went to see Judge Welde and see if he could help me to make better times and plenty of work. I asked him for assistance and he told me the best thing I could do was to go and see his Honor, Mayor Thomas F. Gilroy, he would help me all he could. So I went down to see the Mayor, and his private secretary told me he was going to Washington to see the President inaugurated, and the best thing for me to do was to wait until he came back. Then, when I heard of his return, I went down to see him, and he put me off from one week to another, and then I went down again and he said I could not see him at all. Then I wrote him a kind letter, but I did not get any answer. I went down to see Mr. Levy in the Register's office, and I thought he could do something for me, but he did not give me any satisfaction, and he put me off from one week to another, until I saw him one day in his office. Then I waited a short time and went down to see him, but he said he was too busy and could not see me, so I waited a little while down stairs for him. When he saw me he thought he would sit down and wait until I went out. So I went outside and waited for him, and I asked him if I could speak to him. He did not answer me, but rushed past me and went on a Broadway car, and I did not see him after that.

I met Lawyer Munzinger and he told me the best thing for me to do was to try and see the Mayor, and I went down to his office, and there met Senator Cantor coming out of the door, and I asked him if he could assist me to see the Mayor about making better times, but he said "it is not in my power to do it." I said that it could be done in some way if I could get a little assistance, reminding him of his remarks at the meeting when he stated that if Mayor Gilroy should be elected there would be money in

circulation. I said: "If you want to take the trouble and direct me to some one who will help me along, I will tell you all about it." The answer I got from him was: "I am too busy. I must go to Albany, and I cannot be troubled with you. It is not in his power to do it, as all he has to do is to see to the roofs, streets and sewers; that is his work."

I met Lawyer Munzinger and asked him for advice as to what I should do; so I wrote to his Honor, Governor Flower the following letter:

MARCH 10, 1893.

To his Excellency, Governor Roswell P. Flower, of the State of New York.

DEAR SIR:—May it please your Excellency, the undersigned, D. Brandenburg, represents that he, observing the stringency of the money market, and the consequent hardship of the masses, proposes to ameliorate the condition of the same by a scheme which he is now in possession of, and to assure your Excellency of the self-denial of the masses, hereby intimates to you no request for money for and in consideration of the unfolding of his plan. In deference to the usual forms of etiquette, I beg to inform you that I have already written to his Honor, Mayor Thomas F. Gilroy, and having received no answer, I deem it necessary to write you, the prominence of your position guaranteeing me that my simple request for a further proposition to you will receive an answer. Believe me with respect, Yours very truly,

D. BRANDENBURG.

I did not receive any answer to this letter, so I waited a month and then wrote to his Honor, President Cleveland, the following:

NEW YORK, March 23, 1893.

To his Excellency, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States of America.

DEAR SIR:—The undersigned, referring to an interview had with you in the Capitol at Albany, New York, and at

the Genesee House in Buffalo, New York, some eight years ago, in which you kindly suggested that Mr. Scheni would be a person for me to see in relation to my scheme of which I then informed you. Mr. Scheni did not appear to take any interest in the object that your Excellency suggested to me he would take, and I dropped the matter for the time being. Now, deeming this an auspicious occasion, I venture to request the attention of your Excellency to my plan, and assuring your Excellency of my total abnegation of any self-aggrandizing in the matter, I beg of you to kindly give me audience for the unfolding of my plan. Therefore, I assure your Excellency of my ability to assuage the suffering condition of my fellow-men in the vast territory so wisely governed now and previously by your Excellency. I await the pleasure of a renewal by me of the plan to which you kindly and patiently gave your attention at the times heretofore mentioned, at Albany and Buffalo, New York. I deem the present time more fitting on account of the stringency of the money market and the consequent sufferings and hardships entailed upon the masses, part of my plan and their condition, no request for money or value is demanded or expected for or in consideration of the success of the plan. The potency of your position guarantees me that my simple request for a further proposition to me will be met and assured.

Should your Excellency's time be so engrossed, may I ask you to refer me to some trusting person in this vicinity who would be likely to aid me and the general public in this humane and praiseworthy effort of yours.

Yours truly,

D. BRANDENBURG.

No answer was received to this letter, which was to his Honor, President Cleveland. When I did not receive an answer to this letter I prayed to God and said: what shall I do now? And there was no answer. Then there was such a storm that the wind tore the trees out of the ground

and it seemed as if we were going to have an earthquake, and then I thought: what shall I do now?

About three months after that I went to see Commissioner Daly. I could not see him for a few months, so I went to his office every day, but I could not see him. Finally I wrote him a letter, and he put the answer in the paper instead of answering the letter and sending it to me. The letter which I sent him was as follows:

NEW YORK, August 10, 1893.

To his Excellency, Michael F. Daly, Commissioner of Public Works of the City of New York.

DEAR SIR:—May it please your Excellency, the undersigned, D. Brandenburg, represents that he, observing the stringency of the money market and the consequent hardship of the masses, proposes to ameliorate the condition of the same by a scheme which he is now in possession of, and to assure your Excellency of his selfdenial, hereby intimates to you that no request for money or value is demanded or expected by him for or in consideration of the unfolding of the same. With due regard to the code of etiquette, I beg to inform you that I have already written to his Honor, Mayor Thomas F. Gilroy, and having received no answer thereto, I deem it necessary to write to you. The potency of your office guarantees me that my simple request for a further proposition will secure me an answer from you.

Yours truly,

D. BRANDENBURG.

Mr. Strauss was then running for Congress, so I went to see him and see if he could help me, but he said that he was too busy, but if he was elected I should come around again and see him. After he was elected I went to see him and he spoke to me and asked me what I wanted and I told him I wanted to get assistance to ameliorate the condition of the times, and he said that this is just what he was willing to do, and the best thing for me is to go

and see Mr. Croker; "he is the man for you." The next day I went to see Mr. Croker, and waited for him about three or four hours. At last he came, bringing a judge and sheriff with him, and his private secretary was also in the office. I spoke kindly to the sheriff and asked him if he could assist me to make better times. He in turn asked me if I was able to better the times, and I said yes, if he could give me a little assistance I would be willing to do it. I remained in the office quite a while in hopes of receiving an answer, but did not get one, either from the sheriff, or the judge, or Mr. Croker. The secretary told me that I should not come there any more.

The times got worse and worse, people were starving and had neither bread nor work, nor had the business people any business to do. It was just the same way as when I first commenced to study this plan.

I then went to see Colonel Webster, and he said he was too old to help me along, and that the best thing for me to do was to see President D. Hays, of the Fifth Avenue Temple, and speak to him, perhaps he could do something for me. I went down to Mr. Hays' office and the book-keeper told me I should go to his house, I would see him there. I went to his house, and saw him, and spoke to him, asking him if he could help me make better times. He said that if I was able to accomplish this, the best thing for me to do is to publish the fact in the newspapers. I then thought I would visit Mr. Squire, the chairman of the Sagamore Club, and ask him if he could assist me in securing an audience with the Mayor. He said if he was my own brother he could not do it. He asked me what it was all about, and I told him I wanted to improve the times so that the people should have plenty of work. He told me to go around the corner, between 124th and 125th streets, and see what they were doing there; they would help me along. When I came in to see the committee there were a great many people standing there receiving charity from the officers so as to help them along. I asked Mr. Bishop, who was

sitting there at the time, when I could see Judge Welde, and he said either Monday or Tuesday. I went to see him Tuesday, and spoke to him again of this affair, and told him the story from the beginning, how I traveled around for one whole year without receiving any assistance, whereupon the Judge asked me what he could do for me. I asked him if he could direct me to some responsible person who would help me settle this matter. Then I told those present the story about the gentleman who gave his son ten thousand dollars to start him up in business. This son purchased a book store on Broadway and spent all his money on fixtures and on his sign. Then he went down town to get some goods for the store, and gave his name as Lowenstein instead of Labenstein, and said he had a nice store and spent ten thousand dollars on the fixtures and the sign. They refused to give him any goods on account of the difference in name and fixtures; they said that they could not sell any goods on name and fixtures. So he went home and told his father that he had fixed up his store beautifully, but could not get any goods to put in the store. His father asked him what he did with the money, and he answered that he had fixed up his store with fixtures and had a sign made for it. Then his father said: "Is that the way you spent your money?" It is just the same way as with the Democrats now. They have nice offices everywhere, but not much stock for the next election, as it had turned out so bad this year. The consequence is that they have a nice sign but no stock.

When I was finished with my story all the officers got up from their chairs and went away. I went over and spoke to the Alderman from this district and told him I was just as bad off as ever, so I thought I would publish this in the papers. I went around to a great many places to see if anybody would try to help me to get this published in the newspapers. I went up to the *Times* and saw the editor. He said that it was impossible for him to publish it. He sent me to the editor of the *World* to see

if he could assist me. I went to the editor of the *World* and spoke to him about this affair. He gave me to understand that he did not have time to listen to me, but I should write to him. Then I went to see if I could publish it in the democratic paper, the *Sun*. I was positive that they would assist me. I spoke to the editor about it, and he told me that business always runs in a natural way and we would have to wait until it improved. A few weeks later I wrote to the *World*, but did not receive an answer, although I noticed in the papers that they put pictures in them as answers to my letter.

I then waited until May 28. There was a meeting in Orpheus Hall, Nos. 211 & 213 East 124th St., near Third Avenue, and Mr. J. O'Brien, former sheriff of New York county, made a great speech in which he blackmailed the city officers. After he was through speaking I asked him for his address, because I would like to see him personally, and he gave it to me. In about a week I went down to see him, and asked him if he could assist me to make better times. He told me to come down and see him at the office, which was open from 10 to 12 a. m. and 3 to 4 p. m., or to see him at the club house, which is at the Anti-Democrat Hall, 144 West 42d Street. When I came down there and spoke to him, I asked him whether this blackmailing would have a tendency to improve business. He said that it might make a change. I asked him if he could refer me to some responsible person to help me in my endeavors to improve business. He asked me to come down to the club house, saying there might be a person there who would take an interest in me, then we could settle this business. About two weeks later I went down there, and the answer which I got was that he was not yet ready to see me. I waited a few weeks longer and then showed him a piece of paper that had a photograph on it taken from the *World*. It was the hands of Esau and the voice from Jacob. I asked him why he did not put the two together and we would have better times, but I did not get an answer to this. I went down again,

and he showed me a gentleman who was sitting there and told me it was the Senator. I went over and spoke to him and told him about this affair of mine. He said the best thing for me to do was to wait until the people came back from the country. I now thought I had found a person who would take an interest in me, but I was quite mistaken. I thought this would take too long, so I did not pay any attention to this person, but thought I would try to do it myself. I wrote to the editor of the *World* several letters which I have mentioned above. I asked him how much money was spent on the poor people to buy bread for them last winter, but I did not receive an answer to this. I then asked him what the meaning of "Democrat" is. The next morning I went out and saw a great many officers of every description, and they all thought I was put up by somebody to speak or see about this affair. I tried to find out myself what the circumstances were. When I was a boy I used to say a prayer three times a day, entitled "Dan shall judge his people." I asked my daughter what the meaning of "Dan" is, and she told me that it meant "Daniel." It is very hard for a person who cannot read or write to be a pilgrim. The word Democrat commences with a "D," and I took it from my name so as to do justice to every officer and person of whom I required anything. I have not as yet found anyone who has done me justice. If all the citizens would do so there would not be any hard times, as the Bible has told this word: **דן ירין עמו באהר שסטי ישראל,**

If the people would pay the workingmen the money due them, it would be justice. To make them wait so long for their money is not justice. If anyone orders a thing and does not take it, it is not justice. If people take their meat from the butcher, and their bread from the baker, and do not pay for it, it is not justice. If ministers do not try and teach the children their religion, and take their salary from the congregation just for speaking and praying, this is not justice. I would like to say more on this subject, but every word has its meaning. If you

take one word by itself you can make three times as much out of it.

In answer to the editor of the *World*, about the money that was spent in the city of New York, I am not certain as to the exact amount, but I think it was one hundred thousand dollars. I suppose that money was contributed by officers and business people to give to the poor. Did that make better times and more work for the poor people? No, I think not. If that money was spent for old material, it would be a great deal better and give more work to the poor people. They would rather have a day's work than one dollar as charity.

In regard to the answer of the editor of the *Sun*, and his saying that it was impossible for me accomplish the betterment of the times, as business always goes on in a natural way, I will prove to every one to whom I spoke and whom I saw that it could be done in a different way from that in which it is done now. I took this from the Bible, from the sixth day, when God spoke to the angels and said: "We shall make man." So it could be done now by calling all the people together; the officers and the business people from the districts, towns, and cities, so as to organize a company to make better times. There is no such organization at present in existence in this country. But there are so many other companies, such as gas and railroad and others. But there is no company organized for the purpose of helping one another to clear out the old stock so as to make room for new goods, such as gold, silver, clothes, iron, furniture, etc. It makes no difference how cheap the raw material is, if there is no demand for the goods which are manufactured. It is through this cause that the manufacturing industries are at a standstill, and the only way to revive business is to clear away the old stock, and then we will have room for the new. The only way in which this could be done is for the manufacturers and storekeepers to organize a meeting and speak to the chairman of the companies, and get them to make a start in buying up the old material so

as to make some work for the working people and business for the business people. They could also make an offer of \$5, \$10, \$100 or \$500, or as much as any one would like to give to the company in the year, with which money they could buy up the old material and so make plenty of work and plenty of business. Especially is this the case in the clothing business. People who go to Europe generally buy their clothes there and bring them along when they return, and after wearing them a short time sell them, thus throwing a lot of people out of employment. It is the same with the manufacturers themselves, and also private citizens, officers, merchants, etc.; they wear their clothes a short time, and then they sell them and get the money for them, and that is the reason there are so many out of employment. They do not think of the harm they are doing to themselves and to the working people. For instance, if they sell their clothes to peddlers or to any one, the clothes wear three times as long as a ready-made article.

The rich people get their clothes made to order, and they buy the best material. In consequence of this the article can be worn three times as long as if it was bought ready-made by a workingman. With the money thus contributed, as suggested above, all these cast off garments could be bought up in the districts, cities, or towns. They should write to the rich people, or to any officers, or to any one who wants to sell his old material. If they want to give it away for nothing, they can do so, but should let the fact be known through advertising, or by letter or postal. That is the way they could get the old material together.

When all the old material has been collected, it should be burnt up or converted into paper, whether good or bad. It is just the same way with iron, which should be destroyed or melted into any shape or form. The same is true of furniture. People have their furniture over twenty or thirty years. How is it possible then to do any business or to create more work. It is cheaper to do away

with the old articles than it is to buy raw material. If this is done in this way there will be plenty of work for every one and no more suffering.

At the present time the drummers going out on the road cannot sell their goods unless at a sacrifice, which has as a consequence the cutting down of the wages of the workingmen. They have to work very hard to make a dollar or a dollar and a half a day, and they must work from five o'clock in the morning until twelve o'clock at night. After the season is over they have no more work and cannot make a living, and as they do not earn enough money to be able to save anything, the consequence is that they must starve. The wholesalers and retailers cannot buy their goods cheap enough to be able to sell cheaply. If every city or town in the United States would follow the advice given above, there would be no more complaints from the people.

In regard to Com. Daly's letter, if he would have answered my letter, I would have written and told him that every faucet in the tenement and private houses, etc., leaks, and that there should be an inspector to examine them, and that would give a great deal of work to the working class. The same with the toilets, where there ought to be a tank, which should be cleaned three or four times a day and then there would not be any bad odor in the houses, and that also would give a great deal of employment to the working class.

I studied from the action of father Abraham, when he got up in the morning he looked around to see if there were any strangers coming in the distance in his direction so that he could direct them in the proper way, because he was our father of the children, and he wanted to lead them in the right way, wherever they wanted to go. So it is in this country, by ways of regulation which will bring money into circulation, so as to make the poor rich and the rich richer. A good many people belong to a great many societies and insurance companies, and at last when they get angry, they go out of it and lose all the

money that they had put in, and have nothing from it. If these people would save their money and get rich by it, instead of paying it into societies and insurance companies, they could in ten years buy themselves a small piece of property from this country for about \$3000 to \$10,000 to \$20,000, or whatever they would like to pay for it, and they can pay it off with 10 per cent. which would make it very comfortable for them in their old age. In the way they are doing now by paying their rent and paying into societies, they have nothing to show for it, and will have to go begging in their old age.

Landlords and brokers are suffering in the same way, a good many people make it a habit not to pay their rent to the landlords, and they in turn cannot pay the brokers, and it makes a great deal of hardship for every one. By belonging to the company of which I was speaking, by paying in \$5 or \$10, and from this money there should be an insurance on the death of a member, and each ought to be taxed from two to three cents, and pay off all the property that I was speaking about, by paying in the \$5 or \$10 that would help them along in every direction in the whole United States and the sign of membership will be a badge with the inscription "Love thy Neighbor as Thyself" on it. This article will bring a good many people employment, to build houses in towns and cities, the same can be said for educated people, and every one who desires work, lawyers, stenographers typewriters, and real estate agents included, for which they are at present waiting.

I spoke to a great many people who belong to many societies and companies, which seems to me, that they do not now, and have not for a good many years, met with any success.

On these articles of buying and selling property, I think I ought to get one percent. from the whole United States, When every thing is settled in this matter, I think people will give balls and picnics through the auspices of this company in every locality, and the surplus over the ex-

penses will be used in making each guest a valuable present, wick equals from one cent to \$400 ; and the goods should be bought from every store a little, so as to help them along in their business, say from \$25 to \$500, and these stores could make their prices to suit themselves. The goods shall be of every description ; this will bring money in circulation.

Through this company the people will gain a good many friends, and it will be joyful for every man, woman and children, even to the old folks, all over the country. By the way, I do not demand any money, or ask for any, as I stated in my letters in the beginning.

The following is a sample of the way we intend to do the work of our society : When I lived in Troy, a lady by the name of Mrs. Brakeman, of Boston, came to me, and told me that her husband had ran away from her and that he used to work in a factory where they made clothing, and his parents lived in Troy, when she came to Troy and asked them where her husband was, she was told he was in San Francisco, and if she would go there at once, she could catch him. So she had her furniture sent to his parents before she started for San Francisco, thinking that she would get it again on her return. These people told her a story which was not true. When she came to San Francisco, she inquired every where for her husband, but she could not find him, and she did not know what to do, as she did not have the money to go back to Troy. The people there felt very sorry for her and they went around and made a collection for her and sent her to Troy. When I went to visit her husbands parents, I saw that they had two sets of furniture, and at the same time Mrs. Brakeman came in the room and cried out "I want my furniture, and then I will go back to Boston," but they refused to give it to her, then she came to me and asked me if I could help her to try and get her furniture from his parents. I went with her to a great many lawyers, and they all said they did not want to bother with the case as there was no money in it, so I went to

Mayor Murphy of Troy, and asked him if he could help her, and I told him the story the reader already knows. Mr. Murphy is a very kind man, the same way as myself, always ready to help one another ; he gave her a warrant for their arrest. I found out afterward that her husband was in Riga, Liefland, Russia. Mrs. Brakeman went there and spoke to the American Ambassador, and told him the foregoing story, and that she had been married in Boston. He sent for her husband, and kept him in one room and her in another. Then the Ambassador went to the husband's room and asked him if he was married, and he answered no, the Ambassador then took him in the wife's room and showed him to her and asked him the same question, but he did not say no then. The Ambassador put him under arrest until he gives her her support. That is the way I will do all the work, as the reader already knows, when I get a copyright on this book.

THE END.

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